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A Christian's Primer of the United Nations.

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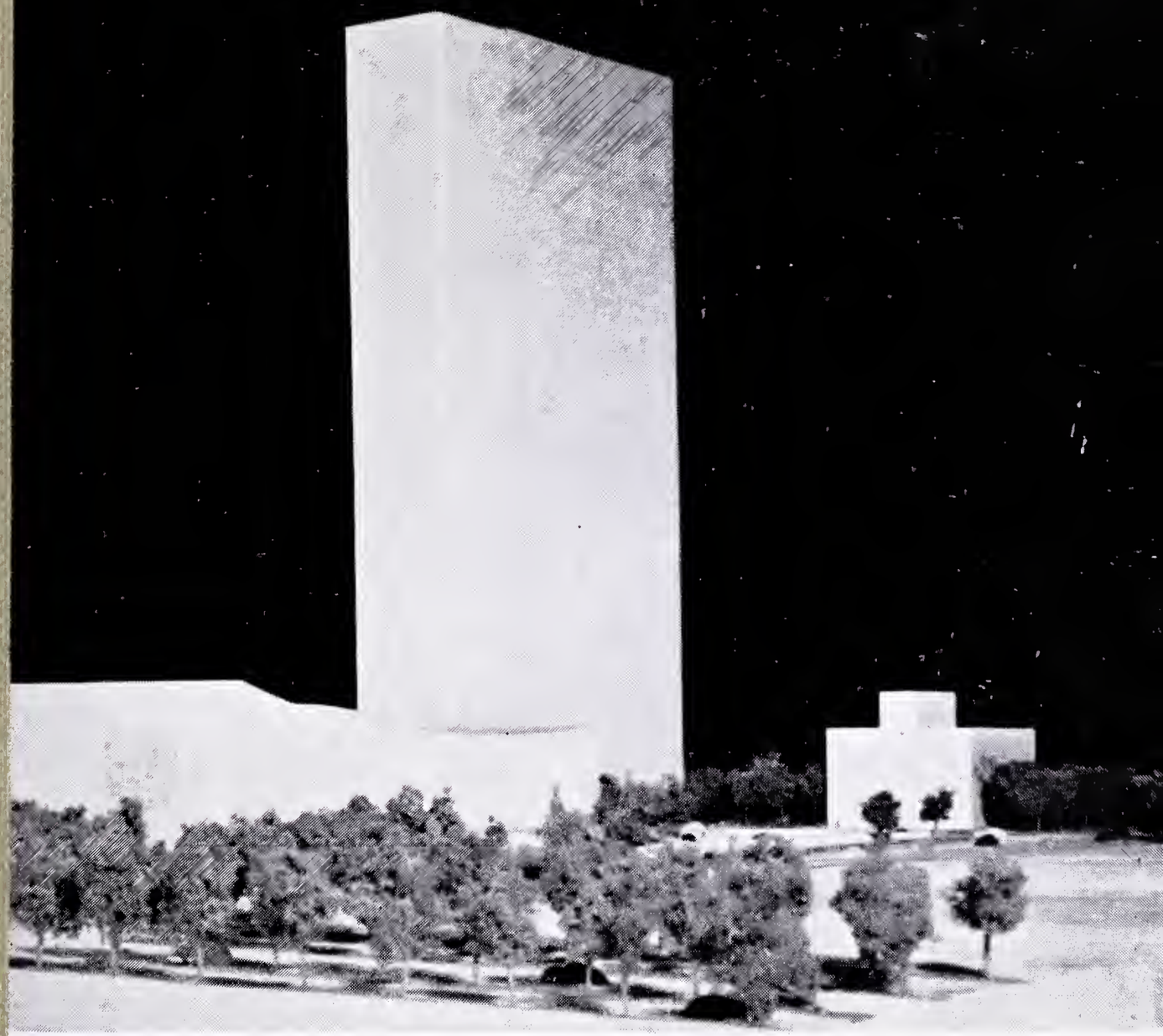

- REAFFIRM FAITH IN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS
- SAVE SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS FROM THE SCOURGE OF WAR
- PROMOTE SOCIAL PROGRESS AND BETTER STANDARDS

United Nations Photo

Thus We Took on a Great Responsibility.

"In it was placed the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

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A Christian's Primer of the United Nations

A Challenge to Christians

Across the face of the world the force of the United Nations is being felt today. In the African Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi new methods of solving the problems of an overpopulated country with badly eroded lands will be found, and such punishments as whipping and chaining will disappear, because the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations took time to consider the problems of that Trust Territory. In the Australian-administered island of Nauru greater participation in their present government and faster progress toward self-government is in store for the people because the Trusteeship Council studied the situation and decided that progress toward self-government was not being made there as rapidly as was consistent with its size, the quality of its population, and the great natural resources of the island.

Try to picture in your mind a little girl, in a mountain hospital, who would have died of tubercular meningitis except for the care, food, and expensive medicines like streptomycin that the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund provided for her, now making a real recovery. In Europe manufactured goods are coming into the homes that need them because the work of the Economic Commission for Europe made it possible for the manufacturing plants to be put back into service and for trains to roll again. In the Middle East, where severe storms blew away hundreds of the tents that were the only shelter for refugee families and put many of the refugee camps under water, a special ship chartered by the United Nations brought sleeping bags, tents, blankets, footwear, and clothing which meant the difference between life and death to thousands of people. In Palestine, where the patience and resource of United Nations mediators brought the end of conflict, people live today who would have lost their lives had that conflict dragged on longer. In Guatemala a school of social work, which could never have been established except for the U. N. Advisory Social Services, is beginning to train the social workers so badly needed there.

These achievements have taken place quietly and cheaply. In a civilization where we have learned to expect a new crisis every day and to live from drama to drama, the process has not made much impression on the public. Ironically enough even in these economy-minded times the economy of the U. N. has escaped general notice. We are used to such huge expenditures, to such astronomical figures, that most people assume that the U. N. costs a great deal more than it does and are surprised when they learn that the total yearly budget of the United Nations is just a little less than that of the Department of Sanitation of the City of New York. Although one day's wartime budget of all belligerents of World War II would run the United Nations for many years, people still worry about its cost without stopping to think that even in terms of dollars and cents the U. N. would be cheap if it postponed war for just one day.

To the small country which has no temptation to believe that it can build up its own armaments sufficiently to defend itself in case of a major conflict, the U. N., as the one force that holds the world together today, is vitally important. To the peoples of dependent territories the blue and white U. N. flag silhouetted against the sky is the measure of their hope for a new life. To mothers in many areas of the world the letters "U. N." stencilled on the wooden boxes bringing supplies of food and medicine have come to mean the difference between life and death for children. But in the more prosperous areas of the world, cynical jokes about the U. N.'s inadequacies, somewhat exaggerated stories of the difficulties and problems that the U. N. like any political body faces, and a skeptical attitude toward its chances of a successful future are far too common.

Therefore, a burden and responsibility falls upon Christians, particularly Christians in this country, to understand what the United Nations is accomplishing and the methods by which it can be developed into the guarantee of permanent peace for which all of us pray. To see why Christians are particularly eligible for this responsibility one needs only to look at the similarity between the U. N.'s aims and the tenets of the Christian faith. Christians have looked to a vision of peace since Old Testament times. Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men is the great New Testament inspiration. The brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God is a basic concept of Christian belief.

Here on New York's East River, on a bit of soil made forever international, stands a monument belonging to the world and dedicated to the recognition of these basic concepts. Its arms of service stretch across seas to extend brotherly love to the utmost ends of the earth, but its heart beats here in America, and it is here that it must be protected. When once Christians understand the similarity between its aims and those of our Christian world mission, they will be proud to accept that responsibility.

This service will require real devotion, real understanding and a great deal of work. It will require Christians who can recognize the Christian principles that characterize the U. N. and yet be humble enough in assuming the credit for those principles to be able to work with the non-Christian majority of the world's people. It will require the kind of Christians who recognize that even though the moment of prayerful meditation that begins the United Nations session cannot be translated into the kind of prayer with

which we are accustomed to open Christian meetings, it can still be wonderfully potent if Christians the world over, and perhaps particularly in America, reinforce it with their earnest prayers. They must be great enough believers to see that if the force of the prayers of every Christian were placed behind the United Nations great things could happen. There must be Christians with vision enough to see many of the activities of the United Nations as a great means of accomplishing the things that Christians have tried to do for centuries. If the United Nations can find enough Christians of that sort to support it, it can not fail.

United Nations Photo

Even the children of the U. N. have learned to live together

CHAPTER II

How Do We Build Upon What We Have?

Many people have grown discouraged because the United Nations has not been able to solve the great problems of the armaments race and the tensions that have brought it about. Many of them look at the solid accomplishments of the United Nations and say, "These are good things all right, but they mean nothing if peace cannot be guaranteed." Most of us are agreed on the idea that peace is the real goal for which we are working, but we differ about the immediate steps that must be taken to attain it.

For instance, many people wish that we might have immediately a world government which would be capable of dealing with the problems of armaments and the peace. These people feel that we could build now a great bridge of mutual trust that would bring peace to the world. Others are conscious that the peoples of the United Nations, thousands upon thousands of them, are building at this moment, and will be building for years to come —building unromantically, in obscurity, sometimes in mud, filth, and squalor, amid starvation, disease, and abrogation of human rights. They are building mutual trust through their mutual experience in solving pressing problems—they are building brotherhood. The urgency of the tasks on which they work allows them only an occasional moment to look up to the heights on which they are pledged to make the world bridge eventually rise. They can only look up for that moment and hope that something—perhaps the prayers and determination of Christians, perhaps just the war-weariness of the world's people—will hold civilization together until such a time as they will have erected a real foundation for the bridge that will span the world's differences and carry our hopes of peace.

Every time the U. N. committees find some new way to make mediation work, every time they show a country how to conquer a disease that has made 80 per cent of its population chronically ill, every time that they get out a book on housing, showing concrete examples of what is being done in Belgrade, in Panama, in the Union of South Africa, and presenting the results of research on a new type of tropical housing which can meet pressing needs, every time they plunge courageously into an investigation of the incidence of slavery and conditions resembling it in the world today, they are placing the rivets that will help to carry the stress of the eventual edifice. These things that they accomplish cannot be dismissed as good but not essential to the creation of peace—they are the very essence of peace.

Perhaps Christians sympathize more than others with the slowness of this process—for nineteen hundred years we have been building the king-

dom of our Lord. We often grow discouraged at the slowness of the process. We realize that we must learn to build faster if we are to outstrip the forces of danger, but we can see a steady line of progress as we look back—and we cannot afford to be discouraged. So it is with the United Nations. Secretary-General Trygve Lie has several times emphasized the fact that there are many resources for peace in the United Nations' Charter that have not been fully utilized or have not been tapped at all.

Christians can find three jobs to do here. One is the job of bringing the facts of the United Nations accomplishments to the attention of people everywhere and helping them to see the long range historical significance of the small bits of progress that we observe from day to day. If Christians could stop occasionally to say in church, or meeting, a prayer of thanksgiving for some comparatively small-seeming bit of progress that has been made, such as the Trusteeship Council's decision to forbid the use of whipping as a punishment in all trust territories, and a prayer of hope for future progress toward really Christian observance of the principles of peace and of respect for the fundamental freedoms and the dignity and worth of the human person, it might help to lift all our hearts and give courage to those who work for brotherhood through the United Nations.

The second job for Christians is seeing that everything is done that can be done to increase the efficiency of the United Nations and to develop those of its functions which hold promise for expansion into a real world organization. It is apparent that the only way in which we can have world peace with the fullest liberty for the individual is to have international conduct based on law and the subordination of national sovereignty to this law. The evolution of this world law through the Charter of the United Nations is the job to which we are committed. Specific things that can be done to help this development at particular points will be discussed as we come to consider the individual organs of the United Nations in the following chapters. They range from placing the United States under the automatic jurisdiction of a World Court to seeing that the United Nations is at all times the chief instrument of United States foreign policy. Much can be done right now to help at specific points and here again the patience and persistence of Christians is needed.

One phase of this plan for developing the United Nations into a world government so skillfully that we never for a second slow the momentum we have created so painfully, is the further development of the Secretariat. No world government can exist without a world civil service of outstanding excellence. Here in the secretariat of the United Nations we are developing the sort of world servants that have never existed before. Here people of many languages, many nationalities, people whose skills run the gamut of all conceivable occupations, from typing to plumbing and from horticulture to statistics, work together for the United Nations whose interests they are pledged to place above those of any single nation. At the Secretariat headquarters alone there are 3,000 of these international civil servants. In Geneva at the old headquarters of the League of Nations another group works on activities so numerous as to make the old League of Nations seem like a tranquil vacation. In Montreal and dozens of other places around the world people are working out the world's problems. An appreciation of their work

and a recruitment policy to help bring more devoted Christians (there are a surprising number there already) into the program, and a willingness to see our government pay its share of the amount necessary to develop this civil service further as need arises, are required if we are to make fullest use of this part of orderly world development.

The third way in which the help of Christians is needed is in the development of the world culture that we have mentioned as essential to the ultimate success of the United Nations. The attainment of world culture requires an understanding of its component parts. It requires that each of the nations making up the United Nations understand and value the contribution that its fellow members can make. The last chapter of this booklet is devoted to suggestions for studying these fellow members.

An important requirement of a world culture is the recognition of U. N. traditions and holidays. The United Nations has already in its short existence developed three holidays that are of historical significance. We Christians need to take the lead in the celebration of these special days, making them so much a part of our culture that they provide naturally recurring reminders of the things that we are trying to do as a united world.

The first special U. N. day is June 26, Charter Day, a wonderful opportunity for early summer pageants of the flags of the nations or for an outdoor dance or a song festival, stressing those things that come from our sister nations—a wonderful time to remind ourselves that we are joined together in common endeavor. Community unity can be strengthened by giving nationality groups in your town a chance to be proud of treasured parts of their heritage. United Nations principles can be practical locally, too.

Building a "little United Nations where you live" might be a good project to get started at this time. The idea of organizing a United Nations in your town with the various organizations serving at the spots that are most appropriate—for instance, the churches making up the Trusteeship Council because through their mission work they have responsibility for dependent people—might well serve to create greater interest in the United Nations and to bring people together in the community.[1]

Another special occasion is United Nations Week in October culminating on October 24, the anniversary of the day when enough countries had ratified the charter to allow the United Nations to come into being. Since this comes in the fall, at the beginning of the season of work for many organizations, it offers a splendid opportunity for a refresher on the United Nations and what it has accomplished during the year, climaxed by a celebration with movies, skits, or a United Nations supper—something to bring people together to talk about the United Nations.

And the newest of our U. N. days is December 10, the anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Planning for this could begin well ahead of time. Perhaps a municipal orchestra or some other musical group would put on a program to mark the occasion. The inspiring *Preamble for Orchestra and Speaker* by Aaron Copland[2] and Dimitri Shostakovitch's *United Nations March*[3] provide a wonderful opportunity for United Nations emphasis on a musical level. It is an occasion for a real celebration. The whole musical program, including the two compositions named above which were used by the

United Nations on the first anniversary of the declaration's adoption at Carnegie Hall, might be used. The documentary film, *Of Human Rights,* might be another possibility for large meetings. For further suggestions, see "How To Celebrate Human Rights Day," *The Methodist Woman,* July-August, 1950.

Questions for Discussion

What is the best method of developing the degree of world government needed to keep peace and to protect the rights of everyone?

Should the United Nations have authority over individuals or only over states?

[1] *Little U. N. Where You Live* available from American Woman's Association, Hotel Barclay, 111 East 48th Street, New York, N. Y. Price 25 cents. Ask about quantity rate.

[2] The records can be rented from Boosey and Hawks, 600 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

[3] Published by Leo Feist, New York, N. Y.

CHAPTER III

The Structure of the United Nations

Fifty-nine flags flying there together, with the blue and white flag of the United Nations displayed above them—that is the essence of the United Nations. A world culture is being evolved. To the stranger first coming into the maze of offices full of people speaking different languages, but all desperately busy with this task of creating a world culture, the structure seems too complex to be grasped at once. To the reader who begins to study about the United Nations and suddenly finds himself in a maze of alphabets and meetings, it seems impossible that anyone could ever make anything out of ECAFE meeting in Bangkok, and UNSCCUR at Lake Success, UNICEF replacing UNRRA, and the UNCE meeting at Asmara, and UNSCOP, UNSCOB and UNTOC called for conferences at Lake Success. Actually, however, if one stops to learn about the United Nations with a plan of the essential organs in mind, everything falls into place and it becomes obvious why each one has been established and what its job is. Actually it is no harder to remember the organs of the United Nations, their names and their functions, than it is to remember the names of the families on our block, the professions of their bread winners, and their church and club affiliations.

First of all there are the three who head the list and occupy powerful central positions: the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the World Court.

The General Assembly is the focal point of the whole program and everything else has some relation, direct or indirect, to it. "When the General Assembly meets," Trygve Lie has observed, "the future of the world is at stake." When a representative speaks at the General Assembly meeting he has the greatest audience in the world. Not only do the delegations and their advisors from fifty-eight other nations give him an interested hearing, not only do members of the body of three thousand people who make up the secretariat listen to see whether he will say something which has bearing on their work, not only do capacity audiences of people who have come perhaps from as far as California or perhaps just from New York to hear the sessions twiddle with the dials on their simultaneous translation devices until they hear him in whichever of the five official languages suits them best, not only do the consultants from ninety non-governmental agencies and observers from hundreds more listen, but he has a vast unseen audience of radio and television and before twenty-four hours have passed much that he has said will be piped into Bangkok and Moscow—he has an audience that would be the envy of the great orators of the past.

To this General Assembly come the delegations of not more than five representatives, plus alternates and consultants and technical staff for each of the member nations. This is a working session and governments are more and more recognizing the importance of sending to it their most capable people, and incidentally, those who actually possess the power to make decisions. At the Fourth Session of the General Assembly thirty-five countries sent top representation—prime ministers and secretaries of state. At this great world meeting each country has the same possibility of representation, the same vote and the same right to speak. Sometimes it seems that the smaller the nation the more eager it is to speak. This last fact is not too hard to understand when you realize that those small countries are the ones that have the greatest stake in keeping a peaceful world. They are at the mercy of the larger nations and up to now they have not even had an opportunity to say what they thought. Up to this point in the development of the world they have had to stand silently by while the rest of the world decided what would happen to them. Now they have a voice and they want to use it for the peace of the world. They also have a place to speak—the General Assembly—where the world will listen to them, and, if sometimes they seem to speak at length, they have a lot to say that is left over from generations of keeping silence in world affairs.

What the General Assembly Does. The duties of the General Assembly are, however, something more than acting as general forum for world debate, important as that function is. The duties of this organ of the United Nations can be divided into three groups: election, management, and legislation and supervision.

The first of these, that of election, is of obvious importance. The General Assembly elects the following:

(1) The six non-permanent members of the Security Council;
(2) The eighteen members of the Social and Economic Council;
(3) Those members of the Trusteeship Council who do not hold their positions by virtue of their having placed territories under trusteeship;
(4) Members of the International Court of Justice, in conjunction with the Security Council;
(5) Additional member nations, upon recommendation of the Security Council;
(6) The Secretary-General, upon recommendation of the Security Council.

The second, management, occupies even more of its time and is a great responsibility. Since it is the only organ on which all members of the United Nations are represented, it has the responsibility of acting as manager and head housekeeper for all of them. It must approve the budget and apportion the contributions of all the member nations. It makes the regulations which govern the appointment of the staff of the secretariat. It approves any financial and budgetary arrangements with the specialized agencies and examines the administrative budgets of these agencies with a view to making recommendations about them. This responsibility is one which is keenly felt by the General Assembly and, as we have seen, is one that has been fulfilled with outstanding success, for the United Nations is surely an ex-

ample of a great deal accomplished at slight cost.

When the Assembly Meets. The General Assembly is regularly scheduled to meet once a year, on the third Tuesday in September, and sometimes the sessions stretch over a period of three or four months. These sessions have twice been divided into first and second parts. Special sessions can be called when requested by a majority of the members of the U. N. or by the Security Council.

The Interim Committee or Little Assembly. Because the General Assembly is not in session all the time it has created an Interim Committee composed of one representative from each member state. This Committee is continuously available for work. It considers matters referred to it, makes preliminary studies of disputes or questions placed before the General Assembly which require study. Examples of problems on which it has worked are an inquiry into the various types of mediation which the U. N. has used to discover which have proved most effective, and the planning of relief measures to be taken after the earthquake in Central Ecuador in the summer of 1949.

How the Assembly Works. Obviously it would take a very long time for the Assembly to plow through all the matters which have been placed on its agenda for a given session and there are good reasons for decreasing as much as possible the length of time the Assembly is in session, first, because it is expensive and, second, because the shorter the session the more top level people can afford to take the time to attend sessions.

Therefore a plan for expediting the work has had to be worked out. The General Assembly meets in plenary session and takes care of the routine business such as the adoption of the agenda and the election of the president and the seven vice-presidents for that session of the Assembly. It then divides into five committees which consider agenda items and bring finished work back to the full assembly.

This machinery makes it possible for the United Nations to transact a great deal of business in a relatively short time.

Security Council. Probably the Security Council is the best known of all the branches of the United Nations. Expressions of great disappointment in it is often voiced. Failure to obtain agreement on the major issues such as limitation of armaments, including the control of the atomic bomb, and the deadlock on the admission of new members has greatly disappointed the public, and the veto has come to be a source of complete frustration in the minds of many people. These disappointments have often made us lose sight of the fact that the Security Council has a pretty good record in dealing with the kind of disputes which represent the sort of danger to the world peace that was chiefly in the minds of the people who drew up the Charter. We tend to forget quickly the armistice secured, the troops withdrawn from disputed points, and to remember only areas of disagreement.

The Security Council consists of the "Big Five"—China, France, Russia, Great Britain, and the United States—as its permanent members and six other members of the United Nations elected for terms of two years by the General Assembly. The Security Council is charged under the Charter with the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. In the voting of the Security Council we have the well-known veto which means

simply that on non-procedural matters a measure can only be passed when it has the affirmative vote of seven members including all five of the permanent members. If one of the permanent members votes against a measure which receives the affirmative vote of the other ten members, that measure is lost. The Charter provides that the Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously and that each member shall be represented at all times at the seat of the organization.

It is specifically provided in the Charter that the Security Council is to exhaust all possibilities of peaceful settlement. Articles of the Charter provide for use, in case all other methods of settlement prove hopeless, of armed contingents which are to be placed at the disposal of the Military Staff Committee by members of the United Nations.

Although representatives of the Military Staff Committee met many times, the details of forces needed and what each nation should contribute were never worked out. This has not been an unmitigated evil, however, because the United Nations, having no armed forces, has often turned to mediation and discovered methods which have worked out remarkably well. In fact, this pioneering in the art of mediation, which has been thrust upon it, is one of the most interesting phases of the work of the United Nations and one to which Christians could afford to devote a great deal of study. Many serious students of international affairs had hoped that the United Nations never would have to depend upon armed forces because they felt that the exploration of mediation techniques held promise of developing a real skill in solving our inevitable clashes of interest and opinion without resorting to war. On the other hand, many people believe that the only hope of world peace lies in the development of armed force in the hands of the United Nations and the Korean situation has revealed practical ways of achieving this rapidly.

International Law and the International Court of Justice. The third main arm of the United Nations is the one about which people know the least. This is most unfortunate because the greatest possibilities for world peace are in the International Court of Justice. One often hears the remark that if we had world law we could have peace. Actually there is world law which has been developing over a thousand years, and the United Nations has a mission in regard to it. This system of international law had been developing slowly and somewhat lopsidedly. Some of these particularly lopsided areas are being noted by various organs of the United Nations and will be remedied with conventions such as the Convention on Genocide which will render illegal the mass destruction of political or religious groups.

This process of filling in areas in international law is one which requires much time and patience. For instance, representatives from twenty-nine member states, a representative of the International Refugee Organization, and four members of the legal department of the secretariat worked for two sessions a day for several weeks to prepare a draft Convention on the Declaration of Death of Missing Persons. This is a tiny segment of the pattern of world law which will be needed. Yet to thousands of persons a universal standard of this sort will be of immense importance. If the very capable people working on it had been any less conscientious in exploring the implication of every word and sentence used, the result would have been less

satisfactory in the lives of people. It is by this careful, tedious process that we evolve world law.

The United Nations Charter is a legal document which, like the United States Constitution, has shown itself capable of development by interpretation. Examples of this have already appeared, such as the decision that an abstention in the Security Council is not a veto and that the prolonged absence of a member does not constitute a veto. Other interpretations of the Charter have come from the World Court, such as the decision that the General Assembly could not take over the entire responsibility for the admission of new members.

One of the discouraging facts of the early years of the United Nations was that the International Court of Justice had not been called upon to make as many decisions as was usual under the old League of Nations. Of late that situation has improved somewhat. One of the reasons for the lack of use had been the fact that members of so-called blocks did not like to bring their disputes before a public tribunal for fear that the world would draw erroneous conclusions about their essential agreement. Fortunately, during this last year, there is indication that these company manners are beginning to wear off. The first to give up trying to maintain before the world the fiction of complete unanimity on all matters were Norway and Great Britain who took a dispute to the tribunal. Another great difficulty has been that there used to be in the League of Nations a World Court clause on treaties providing that decisions emanating from it should be referred to the International Court. When the United States began to omit this clause other nations followed suit.

Actually the International Court was one of the most successful parts of the League of Nations. It is customarily given credit for having prevented wars in at least eighteen major decisions during the League days. It deserves our interest. Those people who wish to see world government developed will find here a place where their efforts can be used immediately. A campaign to develop the International Court of Justice in every way possible, first, by getting immediate revision of the United States relation to it and, second, by supporting every possibility of increasing its powers and, third, by publicizing its activities and possibilities, would be another important piece of work in building a substantial foundation for such an eventual government.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is elimination of the veto essential to world peace? If so, what would be the best way of working toward it? Would the United States be willing to give up the veto?
2. Would it be desirable to have armed forces at the command of the United Nations?

Project for Group Work

How would your church, or your town or city, like to see a session of the General Assembly? Why not organize a model session? It will require careful planning but it will provide enough interest and information to be worth it. First of all, find out how many of the countries represented in the United Nations are represented in your town. Perhaps some of these people may be happy to represent those countries at a model session. You can get

the Assembly's *Rules of Procedure* (20 cents) and a *List of Delegations* (25 cents) by writing to the United Nations, Lake Success, New York.

In General Assembly meetings the president sits at the center of a dais with the Secretary General at his right and the executive assistant to the secretary general at his left. The representatives of each country sit at oblong tables bearing the name signs of the countries. The seating plan follows the English alphabetical order but the left corner in the front row is chosen by lot at each session and the seating begins at that point of the alphabet.

Perhaps there are people in your town who have visited the United Nations. If not, perhaps someone who has business in New York soon could visit it. The leaflet, *So You Are Going To the U. N.—Or Why Don't You** will help in planning the visit. The visitor will be very helpful when he or she returns.

Choose a current question which you think could be properly discussed by the General Assembly. Read the Charter to see what the General Assembly can and cannot discuss. When you have decided upon an issue, have the representatives familiarize themselves with the issues involved. If you do not find sufficient material on the point of view of particular countries write to their permanent delegations to the United Nations and ask for information.

Do not forget that publicity is one of the most important aids to the success of your venture. Ask your newspaper editor about a souvenir issue for the occasion.

* Woman's Division of Christian Service. The Methodist Church. Literature Headquarters, 420 Plum St., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. Free for postage.

CHAPTER IV

The Economic and Social Council And Its Commissions

Although the three agencies discussed in the last chapter are usually considered the most important parts of the United Nations many people feel that the most far-reaching activities of the United Nations are concentrated in the Economic and Social Council and the agencies related to it. Certainly it is here that Christians find their chief interests in the work accomplished. To those who think in terms of "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," the work of healing the sick, improving the lot of prisoners, bringing food to the hungry is full of meaning. The Social and Economic Council, too, is building for the peace that we all await so eagerly. The stuff with which it builds the climate of world peace is housing, jobs, health, nutrition, the human rights of the peoples of the world.

The structure of the Social and Economic Council is unique because not only is it related to the General Assembly, acting upon recommendations made to it by that body, and in turn making its own recommendations to the Assembly, but it also has its convoy of special commissions and sub-commissions to which it in turn assigns duties and on whose reports it must act. In addition it has a special relationship to the Specialized Agencies and serves to coordinate their activities.

The Charter charges the Economic and Social Council with the duty of promoting:

"Higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.

"Solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems, and international cultural and educational cooperation.

"Universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

How the Council Works. Because of its peculiar central position the Economic and Social Council operates a little differently from any other agency. As we have seen, it consists of eighteen member nations elected by the General Assembly. It elects a president who serves as its presiding officer and two vice-presidents whose duties are those usual to the office. It must hold at least two regular meetings a year, one taking place shortly before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly. Special sessions may be held by the decision of the Council or by request of the Security Council or the General Assembly. A special session may also be called at the request of the Trusteeship Council, of any member of the United Nations

or by any specialized agency brought into relationship with it if the president and the two vice-presidents of the Council agree.

At the sessions of the Economic and Social Council a number of other organizations are represented. The president of the Trusteeship Council or his representative may participate, without the right to vote, in discussions of matters of interest to the Trusteeship Commission. Specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, Food and Agricultural Organization, International Labor Organization, et cetera, may be represented at meetings of the Council, and its Committees may join in the discussion of matters of interest to them. They may even make proposals which are voted on by the Council.

The most interesting and unusual relationship which the Council has, however, is with the non-governmental organizations. These are organizations of a truly international character with particular interest in at least some of the fields of endeavor of the Council. For instance, the following are represented: the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Cooperative Alliance, the World Federation of United Nations Organizations, the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, the World's Young Women's Christian Association, Lions International, World Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The relationship between the Council and its committees and these non-governmental organizations is unique and an interesting example of how an international organization can come to represent directly "We, the people." These organizations can be represented—and usually are—at all open meetings of the Council and its committees. They may submit papers on any economic or social question to the Council. They are divided into three categories. The nine in category A have a basic interest in most of the work of the Council. Those in category B have an interest in only a few fields of the Council's activity, and category C takes in a few agencies primarily interested in developing public opinion and spreading information. The non-government organizations in category A have the right to place items on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council.

Questions which have been discussed by the Economic Council range all the way from plans for technical assistance to underdeveloped countries, the international control of oil resources, the translation of the classics into the languages of the member countries, proposals for maintaining full employment, to a universal system of maintaining weights and measures. Such important decisions as the outlining of the technical assistance program and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the establishment of UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) have come out of these discussions.

Commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Each of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council has a very important function to perform in making the kind of world for which Christians work. Among the most interesting are: Economic and Employment Commission, Social Commission, Commission on Human Rights, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the regional Commissions.

The Commission on Narcotics is one of the agencies taken over from the League of Nations, where it had already done extremely important work

in controlling the sale of narcotics. It advises the Council on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs and prepares such covenants as are necessary to the control of this traffic.

Another Commission which is of great importance to the people of the world is the Social Commission, which advises the Council on social questions. Its job is to work out the practical measures that are needed in the social field and to try to secure agreements on them. Housing, town and country planning, prevention of crime and treatment of offenders; family, child, youth welfare; the social aspects of the rehabilitation of the handicapped including the blind, are just some of the fields in which it is doing outstanding work.

Work of Human Rights Commission. We have been brought up on missionary stories telling how we have sought to carry to the remote, superstition-ridden parts of the world the knowledge that our Lord places worth on every individual. We have seen that as the light of Christian truth comes in, taboos go out, such taboos as would sacrifice a baby surviving its mother who died in childbirth, and the children of multiple birth; in another part of the world, would sacrifice the widow on her husband's funeral pyre. And the economic conditions which made it customary in other places to sacrifice all girl children in poor families must be changed. We, therefore, understand better, perhaps, than the part of the world that has not had missionary experience, the need to secure the basic human rights for all the peoples of the world. It is probably because church people were so conscious of this need that we have provisions on Human Rights so strongly expressed in the Charter of the United Nations. Church people at San Francisco fought to include such phrases as the one saying that the Social and Economic Council may make "recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all." It is, therefore, vital for Christians to understand that they are pledged to protect the rights guaranteed in the Charter of the United Nations.

The task was divided into three parts—that of drawing up a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which would serve as a standard admitted by all to be one that should ultimately obtain everywhere; second, the drawing up of an initial Covenant of Human Rights naming at least part of the rights specified in the Declaration. This covenant will be binding upon the countries that signed it and it will guarantee to their citizens the rights specified in the covenant. The third step would be the establishment of some system of enforcement or implementation. These steps might be followed by a series of covenants dealing with the other rights included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that as many countries as were willing could sign these individual resolutions without having to commit themselves to others which they could not hope to achieve at present. For instance, the United States could with easy conscience sign Article 26 which states that everyone has a right to free elementary education and that technical and professional education should be made available on the basis of merit. That does not represent too much of an advance over the present state of education in this country. But in many of the countries which have signed the Declara-

tion universal free elementary education is still a dream which they cannot hope to realize for some time.

On the other hand there are several provisions in the Declaration which the United States might hesitate to sign at this time—for instance, Article 16, which permits men and women of full age to marry without limitation because of differences in race, nationality or religion. Since twenty-nine of our states have laws which conflict with this provision, it is very unlikely that the United States would adopt such a convention at the present time.

The progress that has been made in the field of human rights is most impressive. The fact that we have achieved a Declaration which sets an ideal standard has already had a noticeable effect upon practice in many places. The work of formulating a convention and proposing machinery to make it effective brings us nearer to the day when the basic human rights will all be guaranteed to every man everywhere by some sort of impartial agency to which he can appeal and whose existence will remove from man's shoulders a great part of the burden of fear which he has carried so long.

Another important contribution in the field of human rights is that made by a subcommission of the Human Rights Commission—the subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, which has made a very thorough study of the extent of the discrimination and the legal and the educational measures which can be undertaken to overcome this discrimination.

Yet another important contribution in this field is the *Yearbook of Human Rights,* two volumes of which have already appeared. In these we have something which had never before been achieved in the world—a complete survey of the state of human rights in all the parts of the world to which the United Nations could give access.

Altogether enough is being done in this field to mark these years as epoch-making in the field of human rights. If Christians are aware of the opportunity that this affords, the time that the process takes may be shortened immeasurably.

Commission on the Status of Women. Christians have long recognized the fact that the world will be better when everywhere the barriers which keep women from being people in the complete sense are lifted. It is an encouraging sight to see fifteen women from as many countries sit down as the world's agency in this field. Their job is to study conditions affecting women everywhere and to bring recommendations to the Economic and Social Council regarding the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, social and educational fields.

The Regional Economic Commissions. There are three commissions to deal with special urgent problems in different geographic areas, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). Their purpose is to continue the economic cooperation achieved during the war and thus to speed the reconstruction of devastated Europe and the improvement of the economies of war-devastated countries and to examine possibilities for improving the economic conditions in areas of the world which need it. This cooperative endeavor on a regional basis has met

with conspicuous success, particularly in ECE where the record shows that in spite of the lack of agreement among the great powers, countries from both sides of the East-West tension line saw the importance of cooperating on practical and important measures to rehabilitate European economy. People in Europe have means of transportation, fertilizers and other agricultural necessities, coal to warm their homes and run their factories, because ECE was there. In the future, life will be made easier with adequate electric power, adequate housing, and better food production and distribution through international cooperation attained by the machinery of ECE. In experiences like these lie another hope of extending the functions of the U. N. and building a world culture.

CHAPTER V

The Satellites

Each of the thirteen specialized agencies related to the Economic and Social Council has a very important function to perform—one that directly affects the life, the safety, the health, the work, or the thinking of millions of people.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In 1944, after the forty-four nations meeting at Hot Springs had agreed to work together, they made some basic decisions:

1. That they would define their responsibility to include real "freedom from want," that is, that they would include shelter, clothing, and food in the essentials that man the world over must have.

2. That two-thirds of the world's population were undernourished, and that health would be greatly improved by proper food.

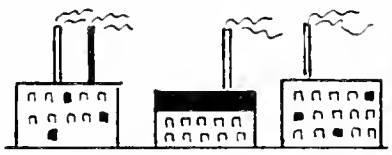
3. That the farmers of the world—two-thirds of the world's population —could produce enough if they used the right methods.

This then gave FAO a big task. Getting enough food from the places where it was in over supply to the places where there was starvation was a big enough task in itself, but when you added the new tasks you really had a job. It sent food missions to Poland, Greece, Siam, and Venezuela, to help these countries improve their food production and distribution. It is working to distribute hybrid corn throughout devastated areas of Europe and the Near East so that they can enjoy the phenomenal increase in corn production realized in North America since the introduction of hybrid corn here. It has inaugurated campaigns to eradicate by inoculation and other methods such animal diseases as rinderpest, which has killed millions of cattle yearly in Far Eastern countries. It has held conferences on timber production to teach principles of utilization and reforestration. At forestry conferences it shows that the problem of the forest fires which destroy millions of trees annually is even more serious than it appears, because years after a fire the waters that should have been held by forested areas will come coursing down these denuded slopes bringing floods that will destroy life and property in the lowlands and sweep out to sea the valuable fertile top soil.

In the summer of 1948, FAO held one of the most significant conferences of our time at Lake Success. Because no one walked out and there was no excitement, it did not awaken a great deal of popular interest. But there, in one committee room, sat the world's scientific experts best equipped to decide the basic question of our civilization—whether the world can actually go on feeding the population adequately or whether "Our Plundered Planet" has small chance of walking the "Road to Survival." The decision was overwhelmingly in support of the position that the FAO conference of 1944

UNITED

COMMISSIONS

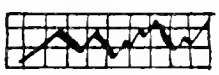


ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA, FAR EAST

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT

FISCAL



STATISTICAL

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

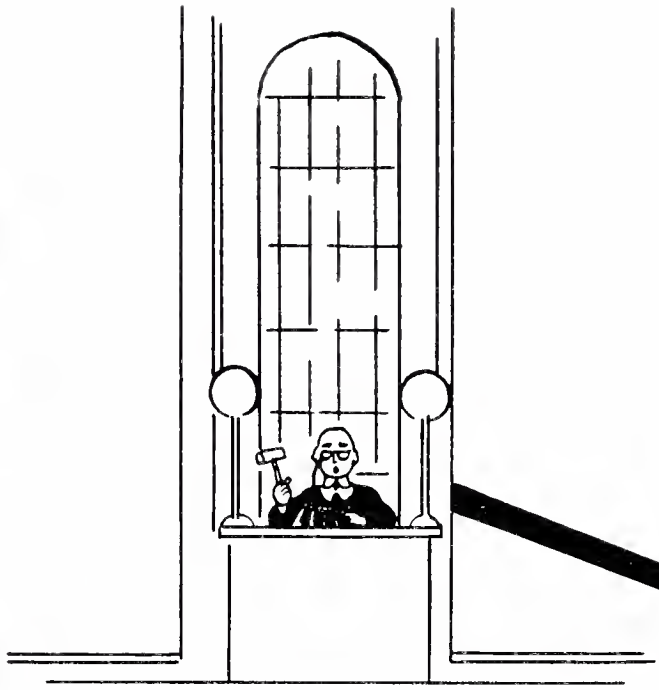
HUMAN RIGHTS

STATUS OF WOMEN

SOCIAL

POPULATION

NARCOTIC DRUGS



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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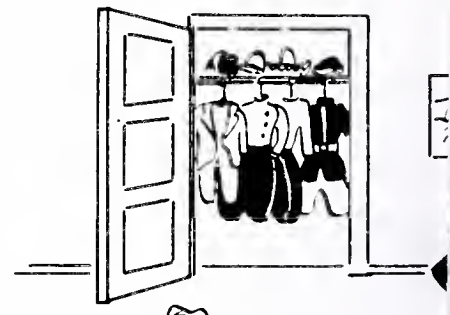
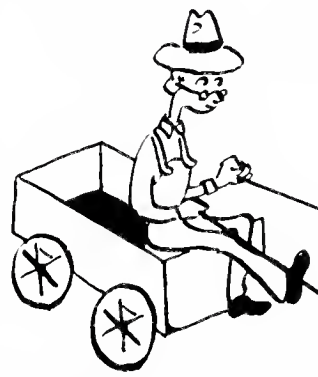


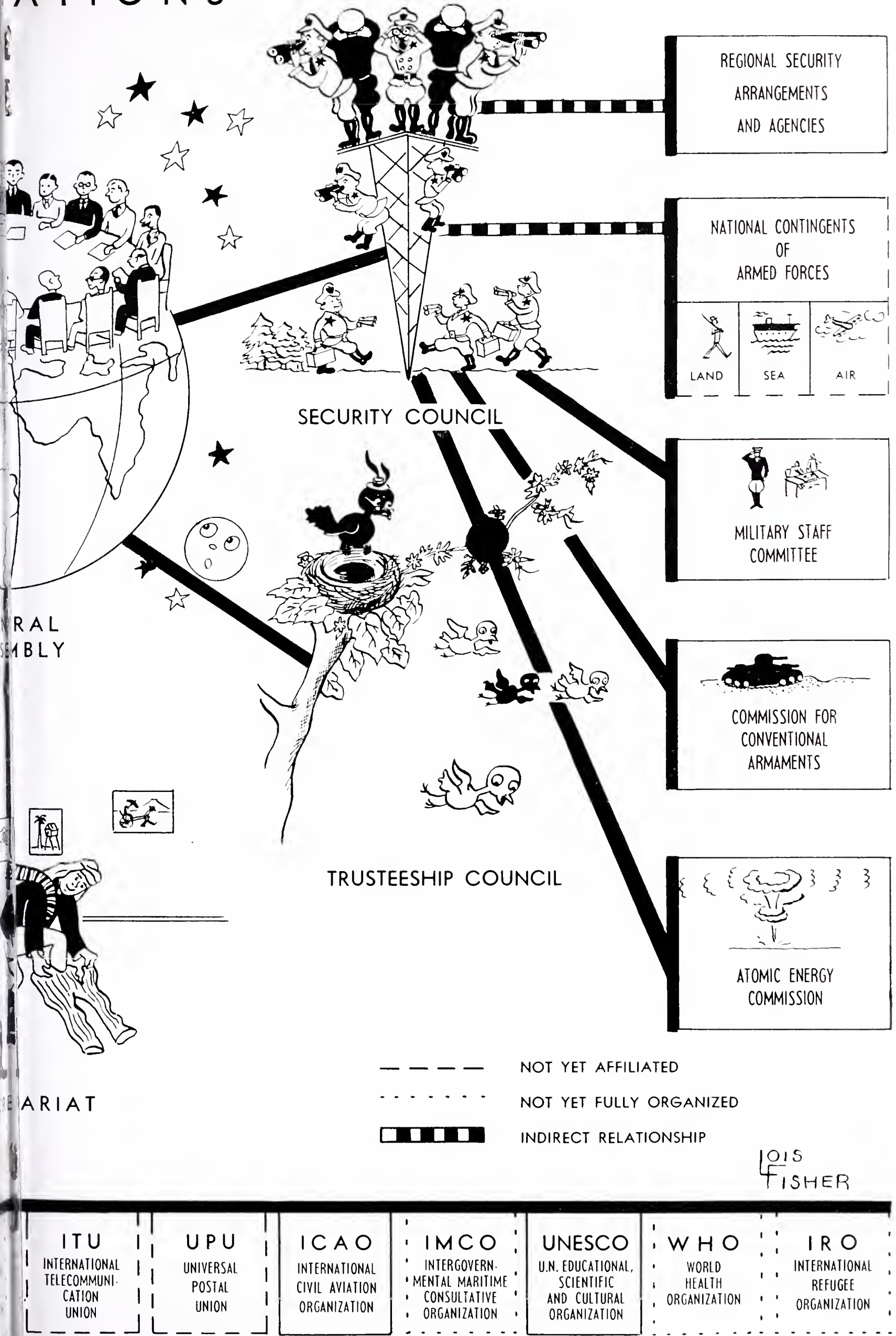


SPECIAL AGENCIES

SEC

ILO	FAO	BANK	FUND	ITO
INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION	INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT	INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND	INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

ATIONS



RAL
MBLY

ARIAT

— — — — NOT YET AFFILIATED

- - - - - - - NOT YET FULLY ORGANIZED

INDIRECT RELATIONSHIP

LOIS FISHER

ITU	UPU	ICAO	IMCO	UNESCO	WHO	IRO
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION	UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION	INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION	INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION	U.N. EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION	WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

had taken. It was, they reiterated, perfectly possible to eliminate want. All you needed to do was to use the best methods that could be found. The things that were said during that session will keep FAO busy for a long time teaching the world how to add to its food supply.

World Health Organization (WHO). In July of 1946 the representatives of sixty nations assembled in New York and decided unanimously to adopt the WHO constitution. This document, a declaration of the right of man to freedom from sickness, has come to be known as the Magna Charta of Health.

One of WHO's most spectacular achievements is the meeting of emergency situations such as the one which arose in Egypt in September, 1947, when a widespread cholera epidemic with as many as a thousand new cases a day was reported. Instant coordination of the world's resources in terms of experts, nurses, doctors, vaccine, blood plasma, aeroplanes to fly in supplies and personnel, cooperation in producing needed vaccine quickly at the spots in the world where facilities existed—these together meant stopping dead in its tracks, for the first time in the history of the world, a major epidemic and cutting the death rate in that epidemic from the 86 per cent that had characterized previous epidemics to 46 per cent—an altogether satisfactory demonstration of what the world can do in a cooperative attack on illness.

But it is not enough to meet emergencies as they arise, we must have long-term plans for the eradication of humanity's age-old scourges whose prevalence has been increased by war. Here we are facing cooperatively the problems which civilization as a whole has avoided while medical missions of the church have made their heroic efforts both to deal with the problem where they found it and to awaken the world's interest in larger efforts. World-wide plans are now being made for the eradication of cholera, typhus and the plague. Work that looks toward the eventual elimination of malaria and tuberculosis is already far along in many parts of the world. Campaigns against yaws (frambesia), which attacks as much as 80 per cent of the population in some places, are under way. The first venereal disease control demonstration team has been sent to India. Projects to fight the virus diseases such as influenza, trichoma and poliomyelitis, which are threats to people everywhere, have been set up. The conquest of the parasitic diseases such as filariasis and schistosomiasis which, although they are only unpronounceable names to us, blight the lives of millions of people in the agricultural areas of Africa, Asia, and America, is also one of the major projects in which advance is being made.

Another field that WHO is entering is that of preventive measures. These include many things—the production of drugs and vaccines is being promoted; international pools of essential supplies, such as the iron lungs which were flown to Bombay last year, are being set up. The compilation of an international pharmacopoeia, which will list all the drugs and set standards for their uniform production the world over, making it possible for travelers to get prescriptions filled wherever they are, and cutting the cost of manufacture and making it possible for scientists to evaluate the results of treatment by specific drugs, is almost completed. Development of native

health service and the creation of maternal and child health campaigns and nutrition campaigns are filling important needs. International quarantine regulations and the world report on the progress of epidemics in all parts of the world are making possible the control of disease.

No longer can we protect our families by measures confined to our own home town. The shrinking of the world with rapid transportation has made that impossible. "No country," says Dr. Brock Chisholm, WHO's director general, "can depend solely on its own protective arrangements. Each must be assured of satisfactory controls in other countries as well. The protection of one country depends upon the effectiveness of health administrations in other countries and upon the success of their collective action." Dr. Chisholm's words make Christians remember that their Lord was never indifferent to the demands of the sick. He says, "My optimism is based on the hope that all 67 nations who at the end of 1949 were members of WHO, and others still to join them, will participate wholeheartedly, without reservations, with courage and imagination, in this crusade for better health. I can think of no greater field for earnest, determined work. I can think of none where it will be easier to set aside political, economic and social differences which still divide a world which should be one world. If there is one aim which must unite us it is surely that of making our children healthy physically, mentally and socially. I trust that in 1950 we shall move another step forward towards building a healthier society and that in doing so we shall also give encouragement to all those who in this vital period of human history refuse to despair of mankind's destiny."

For Refugees. The International Refugee Organization (IRO) is a non-permanent specialized agency of the United Nations which came into existence in August, 1948, and took over functions which had been previously exercised by the League of Nations, the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, UNRRA and, in many aspects, by the allied armies. It became responsible for approximately 1,600,000 refugees left by thirty years of revolution, persecution, and war. More than 550,000 of them were people whose troubles began before the second world war—Armenians and Russians with "Nansen passports" (certificates granted to stateless persons without national passports), German Jewish or political refugees, Spanish Republicans. The remainder were victims of the second world war.

Of the 511,000 refugees receiving care and assistance (usually in Displaced Persons camps) from IRO as of January, 1949, 53 per cent were found to be immediately employable. One-third of them were skilled workers, one-fourth agricultural and one-eighth of the professional and managerial class. In age they are a relatively youthful group—83 per cent being under 45 years of age. A total of 60,900 persons were repatriated during the nineteen months ending January 31, 1949. By and large the immigrants who have been resettled have been the ones selected because of their skills and needed in the countries to which they were admitted. This tends to leave a hard core of those who are economically undersirable because they are either too young or too old, because they are ill, crippled, blind, et cetera. IRO has been appealing to countries to take some of these hard core cases. In response, Israel has said that it would accept all hard core Jewish refugees, and Sweden, Norway and France have taken in significant numbers

United Nations Photo

The signing of the Charter in San Francisco

of blind, tubercular and otherwise handicapped for permanent care. Many people see an opportunity for a job of Christian reconciliation in this sort of undertaking.

Because of the hard core problem and the increasing number of people over the world who, although not refugees by the definition of IRO's charter, are just that in fact, many people came to the conclusion that IRO must be extended for one year beyond its original time limit and that a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons should be established at that time in the United Nations. This office was created by a resolution of the Fourth Session of the General Assembly, and will begin to function January 1, 1951. In the meantime the IRO will be continued in its present form. The new high commissioner's office will take over the care and protection of the refugees who are still under the care of IRO at the time of its establishment and whatever other refugees and stateless persons the General Assembly decides should come under its jurisdiction. The whole problem of persons who have lost their citizenship as they fled from persecution, or as new borders to their countries were being fixed, is a very vexing one, and will provide the new commissioner with much work.

UNICEF and What Is To Replace It. When the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organization was terminated in 1946, the children of devastated countries were suddenly deprived of the food and medicine that stood between them and permanent crippling, illness, or even death. Those who knew the situation were concerned about the children's need and the U. N. decided to organize the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. This new fund to which governments and individuals contributed knew no barriers of race, creed, nationality or politics. In the name of children it crossed international frontiers in a common united effort to bring the milk and other protein food needed by growing children. Badly needed equipment such as X-ray units, incubators, and obstetrical kits, were supplied to child care institutions to save children's lives. Streptomycin to save the lives of tubercular children, BCG vaccine to protect fifty million children against tuberculosis, milk from Canada and the United States, meat from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Uruguay, fish from Canada, Iceland, Newfoundland and Norway, fats from Australia, New Zealand and the United States—all came in quantity to save Europe's children. When that emergency was eased a little, the Near East, Asia, Latin America and Africa felt its benefits.

The contributed money went a long way for many reasons—the responsibility with which it was spent by administrators with a heavy sense of the value in lives of each penny wisely spent, the bargains offered by people with hearts that were moved at the thought of the plight of these children, and the fact that by agreement raw materials were shipped wherever possible and the receiving government paid the cost of manufacture into needed articles. It seemed as if those dollars were really possessed of magic properties when one realized that one of them could purchase enough powdered milk to give ten children a glass of milk a day for a week, enough cotton to make fifteen diapers, enough leather to make a pair of shoes, enough wool to make a child's coat, a day's dose of cod liver oil for 300 children, or the testing and vaccination of eight children against tuberculosis.

Many people say that the emergency is now past and that the conditions which UNICEF is correcting, horrible as they are, are not emergency but typical long-standing conditions. This seems to call for a continuing organization with a dependable budget rather than for an emergency organization dependent upon appeals for funds. Some would like to see the functions of UNICEF divided among the appropriate specialized agencies—FAO would care for food needs, WHO for health needs, et cetera. Others, including Miss Katharine Lenroot of the U. S. Children's Bureau, who represents the United States on UNICEF Committee, have said that you must deal with the whole child rather than trying to split him up among various agencies. Perhaps a children's agency of the United Nations will be the eventual answer to the problem.

Cooperation for Safety. We have seen how the world in which we live has grown so small that nothing except cooperation can protect our health. The same thing has happened in other fields and international planning has become necessary there also. Typical of the new measures taken are the ten weather stations each having ocean weather ships which are maintained by another of the specialized agencies, The International Civil Avia-

tion Organization (ICAO). These ships not only make possible the knowledge of current weather data which is so vital if we are to have air travel, but they serve as relay-communications points for aircraft, and when disaster strikes they are rescue posts.

The fifty nations that belong to ICAO have achieved a great deal in setting up standards for a new world-wide pattern of cooperation in the technical, economic and legal fields of international flying. The safety of those who fly depends upon uniformity of rules so that a pilot can be expected to be thoroughly familiar with the flying conditions and rules no matter whether he is over the African desert, the New Guinea jungle or metropolitan areas like Paris or Rio de Janeiro. Under the direction of ICAO, experts from member states draw up standards which will make sure that the aeroplane is structurally sound, that it carries enough fuel, that its personnel is experienced and capable, that adequate weather reports are available. These are carefully examined by the Organization's Air Navigation Commission and finally adopted by the council of twenty-one elected members, which meets continuously in Montreal.

In the same area of safety the international needs have been met in road transport, for death and inconvenience can ride the roads as well as the airways. Wonderful progress has been made in establishing a uniform system of road signals and signs so that the motorist can understand when he is approaching a dangerous curve no matter what the language of the country through which the road happens to run. Standards for weight of vehicles, elimination of customs inconsistencies, et cetera, are other problems that will be covered.

UNESCO. " Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed," says the charter of UNESCO. When the United Nations Scientific Educational and Cultural Organization turned to the problem of the construction of those defences it found that it had a great deal of ground work to do. Years of war and fanaticism had wiped out libraries and scientific laboratories, had crippled universities and destroyed thousands of school buildings. Before they could attack their three major objectives—"to collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, to give fresh impulse to popular education and the spread of culture, and to maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge," they had a great deal of work to do.

Tremendous strides have been made, but a great deal is still to be done if we are to wipe out illiteracy and revise the education motivated by hate, if we are to bring to each nation of the world so much understanding of other nations that conflict and misunderstanding will be impossible.

Questions for Discussion

1. Which one of the specialized agencies works with problems most like those in your community?

2. Here is a list of the specialized agencies not discussed in this chapter. What does each of them do?

International Labor Organization (ILO)
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("Bank")

United Nations Photo

Spraying for malaria control in Greece

International Monetary Fund ("Fund")
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
International Tele-communications Union (ITU)
International Trade Organization (ITO)—Interim organization; permanent organization not yet established
World Meteorological Organization

3. Which of the specialized agencies have relation to the mission work of the church?

UNRRA photograph from United Nations

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund is helping this Bulgarian youngster.

CHAPTER VI

The Place Where They All Work Together

We have looked at the program of some of the specialized agencies. Each is good in itself, but if the underdeveloped countries are really to be helped, more action is necessary and that action must be coordinated. Therefore the United Nations worked out, in 1948, a plan for combining these various programs into an over-all diagnostic and curative service for the ailing economies of the world. They looked, as our mission programs have been looking for hundreds of years, at areas where the standard of living was pitifully low, where poor health and lack of education made it very difficult for the natives to do even the simplest things toward raising it. And they began to dream a dream of technical assistance for the underdeveloped countries.

This was no new dream. Missionaries in Brazil had looked for a corn that would grow there and had drawn upon the facilities of the United States Department of Agriculture until they had found the right variety of corn that could raise the standard of living in Brazil—that was technical assistance. Agricultural missions had been established in dozens of poverty-stricken countries of the world to teach the people how better methods of farming could improve their lot—that was technical assistance. Dr. Frank Laubach had carried his new, unbelievably simple, method of teaching people to read across many lands—that was technical assistance. In the Church's plans for the Punjab of India there is an over-all plan for lifting the standard of living there and improving the lot of the people—that is technical assistance.

No, technical assistance was not new, but we had never before summoned the courage to plan for it so thoroughly, or on such an extensive scale. When the United Nations looked at the facts it saw two-thirds of the world's population living in underdeveloped countries. It saw that the average annual income in underdeveloped countries was $41 while in the industrialized countries it was $461. They saw that the life expectancy was only 30 years in the underdeveloped countries as against 63 years in the developed areas. They saw that only 22 per cent of the population of the underdeveloped countries was literate as against 95 per cent in the developed. They saw that the per capita consumption of calories daily was 2,150 in the underdeveloped areas as against 3,040 in the developed. They saw, too, that while the United States now exports an average of $5.80 worth of goods to each person in the developed countries, it exports only 70 cents worth to each person in the underdeveloped areas.

It looked as if raising the buying power of the underdeveloped countries would be a real solution for the basic problems that have disturbed the

stability of the world as well as for the aching injustices against which mission-minded Christians have struggled without finding any way to lighten the burden on their hearts caused by the realization that the best that they could do was not enough.

The situation needed a program and the United Nations provided one. Step one was technical missions to underdeveloped countries. In Haiti health was the first problem, with malaria and yaws the chief hazards. The effect of diseases so widespread—possibly affecting as high as 80 per cent of the population—is bound to be felt on the effectiveness of the labor force. Particularly is this true of malaria, which takes from 35 to 50 days of the laborer's time away from his work each year. For farm laborers this is particularly important as crops will not wait until the laborers are able to be up and about. Whole areas of land are so malaria ridden that they cannot be cultivated at all.

Thus in Haiti, as in most underdeveloped countries, the first aspect of technical assistance to be developed was a health program (a little of which had already been done by UNESCO), for no economic progress can be made without health improvement. Next on the program is educational work so that the natives can read directions. And then, beginning slowly perhaps with agricultural planning, the improvement of such industries as fishing, they will develop adequate national income. The initial steps in such a program are bound to be slow, and that is why Christians are needed to keep public opinion from growing disinterested before the goal is reached. The Christian virtues of patience and optimism, and the long experience along the slow road that missions have had to travel, will stand the world in good stead now.

In his inaugural speech of January, 1948, President Truman talked about this kind of program as "Point Four of a bold new program." By "Point Four" he meant not only the technical assistance that would be furnished through the United Nations, but also the continuance of technical assistance programs already begun for Latin America and other direct American technical assistance to underdeveloped countries. The desirability of furnishing this aid in as large a measure as possible through the United Nations cannot be overestimated. When the fifty-nine nations of the United Nations offer pooled money and skills to help the peoples of underdeveloped countries there can be no suspicion of attempt to obtain political or economic advantage for any one country. This is the kind of unselfish working together which will build world culture safely and surely. It is worth while to remember that at a moment when nations had found new ways to disagree about practically everything, fifty-nine nations approved this U. N. technical assistance program, without a single dissenting vote.

We have now, for the first time in the world's history, the tools ready to our hands for an all-out attack on the basic problems of mankind. To pick them up and wield them until the job is completed will require self-discipline, particularly in the United States where most of us have not had as much experience with the problems of hopeless poverty, war devastation, and widespread disease as have some other countries. The end result will certainly be worth the comparatively modest sums required. Here again one is forced to marvel at the thriftiness of the United Nations program. One thing that

people must understand is the true significance of this program—what it means in terms of people and their increased happiness. Christians will do the world a service if they help to make these things as significant as the headlines in today's newspapers make their items.

In April, 1949, in California, a little girl fell into an abandoned, improperly protected well. Through days that seemed interminable, Americans, taking that little girl into their hearts, prayed and worked for her. Radio programs were interrupted to tell of the progress in the effort to reach her, and when it was finally known that she had lost her fight for life, a whole nation revealed its big heart as it mourned for her. A year later people were still thinking of her as states passed laws to prevent the recurrence of such a tragedy.

In the underdeveloped countries one child out of every two born fails

United Nations Photo

Primitive methods of farming in China

to reach the age of fifteen. Some way must be found to make the plight of these children as real as that of little Kathy Fiscus. When we can see each United Nations mission of experts going out to see what can be done for some underdeveloped country as a rescue mission to individuals in trouble; when we can see as the fighters in the cause of humanity the men and women who receive United Nations Technical Assistance fellowships so that they can learn the techniques needed to develop their countries; when we can feel a day-to-day interest in the conquest of disease in countries where its conquest will break the vicious circle of poverty, malnutrition and disease—then the day will have arrived when sustained programs such as technical assistance will be independent of political accident and a new hope for humanity can be born.

Questions for Discussion

1. Find as many examples of "technical assistance" as possible among mission projects.

2. What professional skills would fit into Christian "technical assistance" projects? How many missionaries are we sending out with those skills?

3. What of mutual advantage can be done to relate the technical assistance programs of the United Nations to those of our missions?

CHAPTER VII

The Responsibility For Dependent Peoples

Another United Nations organ of special significance for Christians is the Trusteeship Council, which has the responsibility for the welfare of the 200,000,000 people who have not yet achieved self-government. The idea that a territory is a sacred trust to be administered to the end that its people may as quickly as possible achieve self-government is a relatively new concept in the world. Many wars have been the outgrowth of mad scrambles to secure colonies which were regarded merely as sources of wealth for the mother country. The degree to which the inhabitants received humane treatment has differed, but only in a very few cases has a guardianship of a dependent country been assumed with the commitment to making that country self-governing as soon as possible.

Even under the League of Nations Mandates, which were designed to achieve that effect, many of the countries which accepted mandates over the colonies of the defeated powers did not fulfill their obligations in the strictest sense. When the League realized what was happening in these cases, it was powerless to act.

Accordingly, when the United Nations framed the provisions of the Charter which refer to the Trusteeship Council, it was most specific. The Trusteeship Council itself was so constituted as to consist of an equal number of states administering and states not administering trust territories. There is a separate trusteeship agreement for each of the trust territories which includes the terms under which it is to be administered. The Charter provides that these terms must be agreed upon by "the states directly concerned." They must then be approved by the General Assembly or, in case of any areas designated in the agreement as "strategic," by the Security Council. Any alterations have to be approved by these bodies. Reports of these trust territories have to be made to the Trusteeship Council yearly by the administering powers. The Trusteeship Council also receives petitions from the trust territories, reviews the written reports, and sends out its own visiting missions.

It is interesting to see how fast a territory can progress under such an arrangement. The people of Western Samoa were not pleased with the first trusteeship agreement offered under the United Nations. They recognized that it was an improvement over the one under which New Zealand had been their administrator in League of Nations days, but they did not feel that it got them appreciably nearer to self-government with New Zealand as its protector. In April, 1947, a visiting mission went to Samoa and looked carefully into the question of Samoa's readiness for self-government. As a result, a new agreement, outlining the steps to be taken toward self-govern-

ment, was drawn up and at the present time Samoa is happily embarked on the program that will prepare it for complete independence, and actually now has a majority of native Samoans on its legislative council.

Experts agree, however, that such rapid progress would not have been possible under the Trusteeship Council had it not been for the work of the Christian mission schools which brought the natives a long way along the road to fitness for self-government before the United Nations came into being.

Another most heartening fact is the time and interest devoted by the Trusteeship Council to the reports on the trust territories. One member asks whether there is not too much whipping, chaining, and other severe punishment in the trust territory of Ruanda-Urundi, and before that session of the Council is over a resolution has been passed asking that whipping be discontinued in all trust territories. The members of the Council agree that there ought to be more facilities for training native leaders in the professions, and a resolution is passed recommending that Belgium establish a university center in Ruanda-Urundi, that France do the same for Togoland and the Cameroons, and that the United Kingdom establish facilities for higher education, including vocational and technical education, in Tanganyika, Togoland and the Cameroons—and such facilities begin to be reported within the year.

A third significant aspect of trusteeship is the receiving of petitions by the Trusteeship Council. When a dependency has an impartial authority to which its people can appeal for redress of wrongs, its condition is already vastly improved. Dozens of petitions, ranging from those sent in by such large groups as the All Ewe Conference, asking for the unification of all the Ewe peoples under a single administration, to the complaint of an individual like Paul Wamba Kudililwa, who protested that he had been unjustly removed from a chieftainship, have been carefully considered and investigated. Through the Trusteeship Council the sympathetic eyes of the world have been turned on 200,000,000 dependent peoples. For them it is a new and better day.

Question for Discussion

1. How is the work of the missionary and that of the Trusteeship Council related?

Summary

In these few chapters we have skimmed the surface of the United Nations achievements and looked a little at its machinery and the ways in which it might profitably develop. We have touched upon four matters which represent the United Nations' most important achievements to date: the human rights program, technical assistance, the development of the trusteeship program, and the art of mediation. Through these means and through the work of the various organs of the United Nations, we can hope to achieve a force that can guarantee the rights of the individual as listed in the Declaration of Human Rights, in a world permanently at peace.

If that time comes it will be because individuals everywhere, and particularly Christians, have done a great deal of work. In addition to seeing that their governments use the United Nations as their chief instrument of foreign policy, that they join all United Nations specialized agencies and organs, that they give them complete jurisdiction and support, and that they make adequate appropriations for the support of the United Nations and its program, those individuals will have to learn how to be citizens of a peaceful world. As a first step they must learn to understand their fellow nations in the United Nations. They must know what each nation has to contribute to the progress of the things that they treasure in the United Nations. They must learn to know what makes various nations vote as they do and think as they do.

United Nations Photo

These are the United Nations

Member Nations of the U. N.

Afghanistan
Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Burma
Byelorussian S. S. R.

Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Dominican Republic

Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
France
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Iceland
India
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Lebanon
Liberia
Luxembourg
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Saudi Arabia
Sweden
Syria
Thailand (Siam)
Turkey
Ukranian S. S. R.
Union of South Africa

U. S. S. R.
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela
Yemen
Yugoslavia

How many of these nations can members of your group discuss intelligently? It will be worth your while to devote some time to the study of them. Why not get a flag poster* and cut out each flag to mount on a large poster board? Let each member of your group prepare a two-or-three sentence summary of the main facts about one member of the United Nations and give the title of a book or article about it that he has found helpful. Even before you have finished the project, those flags waving together at the United Nations will begin to take on new meaning. In looking for books to read on members of the United Nations do not overlook *The United Nations Series,* edited by Robert J. Kerner (The University of California Press). The series already includes books on Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Poland, Belgium, China, and New Zealand.

You will find it fun to try to see how much you can say in a few words that will help to interpret a country. Here, for instance, is a sample statement on Iceland, a small nation which because of its location is of tremendous importance to the present-day air-minded world:

This is Iceland—a small nation (population 121,618, area 39, 709 sq. miles)—which hangs from the Arctic Circle. It has a long history of democratic government and culture. It is unique in the world by virtue of having had continuous parliamentary government for over 1000 years. A land of fascinating contrasts between the ancient and the most modern, it is now an important link in the United Nations' air safety and information service.

Watch how independent this country is in voting and how zealous it is in protecting its liberty and that of others. See Horace Leaf's *Iceland Yesterday and Today,* Allen and Unwin, London.

These Countries would like to become members:

Spain	Outer Mongolian People's Republic
Finland	Hungary
Albania	Nepal
Austria	Korea
Bulgaria	Portugal
Ireland	Italy
Trans-Jordan	Romania

No one knows for sure how many members of the United Nations there might eventually be, for no one knows how many nations will evolve as we see countries come up to the requirements for self-government. Certainly the hopes of a peaceful world are based on world-wide participation in the United Nations, as soon as possible.

After you have made the same sort of chart for these countries that are now seeking membership, and any others that you think might well be considered for membership, discuss the question of whether they should all come in and why. What would be the effect on the mission program of the Church if all nations came into the United Nations? On the furtherance of human rights around the world?

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Board of Missions and Church Extension
The Methodist Church

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Notes

Notes

THESE THINGS I AS A CHRISTIAN CAN DO FOR THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE; FOR THE WELFARE OF MY BROTHERS THE WORLD OVER; AND FOR THE UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION OF THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF THE HUMAN PERSON.

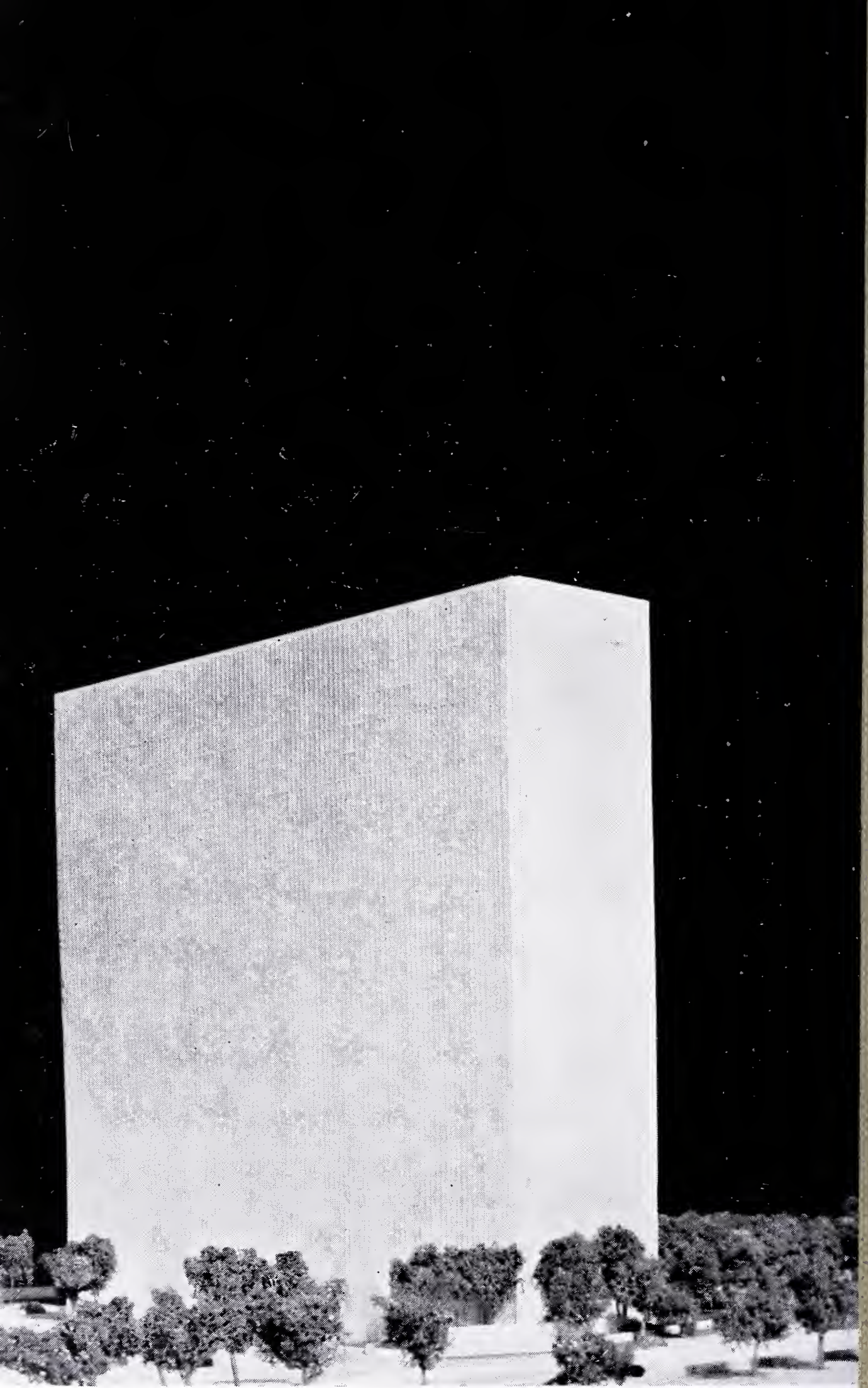
1. I can tell others about the U. N. and its accomplishments.

2. I can arrange for meetings, institutes, U. N. information centers, and better newspaper and radio coverage.

3. I can try to see that my representatives in Congress work for legislation supporting the U. N.

4. I can try to understand the other countries whose fate is bound up with ours in the U. N.

5. I can practice the principles of the U. N. at home in the community where I live.



SINCE WARS BEGIN IN THE MINDS OF MEN
IT IS IN THE MINDS OF MEN THAT THE
DEFENSES OF PEACE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED

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